

PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL SYLLABUS

A front-facing view of a bright yellow Cessna aircraft on a runway. The aircraft has a black propeller with white stripes at the tips. The background shows a clear blue sky and a distant landscape with green fields and some buildings.

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Private Pilot Ground School

Overview:

Flying for fun or professionally is incredibly rewarding. It takes a lot of dedication, training, and integrity to maintain a safe environment for you and the people around you. This course is designed to help the student pilot prepare for the Private Pilot knowledge exam required by the Federal Aviation Administration. Additionally, the ground school course may serve as a source of supplemental training to those who have already completed a ground school course or may already possess a private pilot certificate. For those seeking a logbook endorsement, the ground school instructor will endorse the appropriate portion of your logbook upon successful completion of the course. Both the Private Pilot Knowledge test and Practical Test are required by 14 CFR 61.103 to satisfy the requirements set by the FAA to receive a private pilot certificate.

Required Materials:

- Jeppesen Guided Discovery Private Pilot textbook
- Current Los Angeles Sectional and Terminal Area Chart
- Current Southwest Chart Supplement
- Mechanical E6-B Flight Computer
- Sectional Plotter
- Aeronautical Chart User's Guide

Suggested Materials:

- Current FAR/AIM combination
- Notebook/Electronic Device for taking notes
- Page Tabs
- Pens/Pencils/Highlighters/Eraser

Format:

The Private Pilot Ground School is a 9-week course that meets twice per week for two hours each session from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM with breaks as needed. The ground school consists of three stages. **Stage one** covers chapters 1-3. **Stage two** covers chapters 4-7. **Stage three** covers chapters 8-11. At the end of stages one and two, an exam is given to cover the respective chapters. The stage three exam is a comprehensive final exam given on the last official day of class. The course totals 36 hours of training including presented material and three exams in preparation for the FAA knowledge test. There are required readings and assignments prior to each class to ensure familiarization of material and a building block style of learning.

Ground School Objectives:

1. Introduce students to aviation and present opportunities within the industry.
2. Serve as a source of supplemental training for those who have already completed a ground school course or may already possess a private pilot certificate
3. Prepare students to pass the Private Pilot Knowledge test with a minimum passing score of 70% as established by the FAA.

Joining the Course Late

A student may join the course at the beginning of any class session. However, the student will not be eligible to take any exam until that student has completed all the lessons applicable to those stages.

Missed Classes

In the event a student misses no more than three regularly scheduled ground lessons, that student may complete the missed ground lesson by directed self-study, which will be conducted under the supervision of your instructor.

Course Completion Standard:

Students will be required by written exam that the knowledge required for the Private Pilot Knowledge Exam as prescribed in 14 CFR Part 61/141 has been met. The minimum passing grade is 70% for the FAA knowledge test. To be considered eligible for a logbook endorsement, Orange County Flight Center requires a minimum grade of 80% on the final exam.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to require additional training prior to endorsing a student for the knowledge test.

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Ground Lesson 1: Discovering Aviation

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 1, Pages 1- 72 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of pilot training, opportunities within aviation and an introduction to human factors.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 1

Section A- Pilot Training

What Flying is All About
The Training Process
The FAA
Where to Obtain Pilot Training
Ground Instruction
When You can start taking Lessons
Medical Requirements for Piloting an Airplane
BasicMed
Requirements to Become a Private Pilot
What Flying Lessons are like
Privileges as a Private Pilot
Training Course Sequence
Type of Aircraft you can fly
Airworthiness
Pilot Logbook
Currency Requirements

Section B- Aviation Opportunities

Aviation Opportunities
Aviation Organizations
Airplane Transitions
Additional Pilot Ratings
Category and Class Ratings
Additional Pilot Certificates
Aviation Careers

Section C- Introduction to Human Factors

Single-Pilot Resource Management
Aeronautical Decision Making
Risk Management
Task Management
Situational Awareness
CFIT
Aviation Physiology

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign prior to the first, class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 1
- Define: Section key terms
- Complete: Questions at the end of each section

Ground Lesson 2: Airplane Systems (part 1)

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 2, Pages 1-37 (2 hours)

Review end of section questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of airplane components, the powerplant and related systems.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 2

Section A- Airplanes

The Fuselage
The Wing
The Empennage
Trim Devices
Landing Gear
Brakes
The Powerplant
Pilot's Operating Handbook
Airworthiness Requirements
Required Maintenance and Inspections
AD's
Aircraft Equipment Required for VFR
Inoperative Instruments and Equipment
Special Flight Permit

Section B- The Powerplant and Related Systems

- Engines
Induction Systems
Carburetors
Fuel Injection
Supercharging/Turbocharging
The Ignition System
Abnormal Combustion
Fuel System Components
Oil Systems
Propellers
Fixed-pitch Propeller
Constant-speed Propeller
Propeller Hazards
FADEC

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 2, pages 1-42
- Define: Section A key terms
- Complete: Section A questions

Ground Lesson 3: Airplane Systems (part 2)

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 2, Pages 42-86 (2 hours)

Review end of section questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of electrical systems, flight instruments, and common instrument errors.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 2

Section B- The Powerplant and Related Systems (continued)

- Electrical Systems
- Alternator
- Battery
- Ammeter/Loadmeter
- Master Switch
- Circuit Breakers and Fuses
- Backup Electrical Systems

- Altimeter Errors
- Vertical Speed Indicator
- Blocked Pitot System
- Blocked Static System
- Gyroscopic Instruments
- Rigidity in Space
- Precession
- Sources of Power
- Turn Coordinator
- Attitude Indicator
- Heading Indicator
- Magnetic Compass
- Deviation
- Compass Errors
- Magnetic Dip
- Acceleration Error
- Turning Error
- Integrated Flight Displays

Section C- Flight Instruments

- Pitot-static Instruments
- Effects of Atmospheric Conditions
- Pitot-static system
- Airspeed Indicator
- Types of Airspeed
- Altimeter
- Types of Altitude

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 2, pages 42-86
- Define: Section B and C key terms
- Complete: Section B and C questions

Ground Lesson 4: Aerodynamic Principles

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 3, Pages 1-64, (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of the four forces acting on an airplane, ground effect, stability, and the aerodynamics of maneuvering flight.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 3

Section A- Four Forces of Flight

Lift
Stalls
Wing Design Factors
Pilot Control of Lift
High-lift Devices
Weight
Thrust
Drag
Parasite Drag
Induced Drag
Total Drag
Ground Effect

Section B- Stability

Stability
Three Axis of Flight
Longitudinal Stability
Lateral Stability

Dihedral
Sweepback
Directional Stability
Stalls
Spins

Section C- Aerodynamics of Maneuvering Flight

Climbing Flight
Left-turning tendencies
Descending Flight
Lift-to-drag Ratio
Glide Speed/Ratio/Angle
Factors Affecting the Glide
Turning Flight
Load Factor
Maneuvering Speed

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments:

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 3, pages 1-64
- Define: Key terms for all sections
- Complete: Questions for all sections

Ground Lesson 5: Stage 1 Exam

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Review stage one material - (0.5 hours)

Stage one exam- (1:00 Hour)

Review stage one exam- (0.5 hours)

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, there will be a review of the material presented in class. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions. The stage one exam will be administered.

Lesson Elements: Stage One Exam

- Review stage one material

- Stage one written exam

- Review and correct missed items

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have completed the stage one exam and reviewed all missed items.

Study Assignments:

- Review material from chapters 1-3, including key terms and section questions.

Ground Lesson 6: The Flight Environment (part 1)

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 4, Pages 1-41 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of safety of flight, including collision avoidance, right-of-way rules and minimum safe altitudes. Additionally, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of airports, including traffic patterns, airports signs, markings, lighting, and incursion avoidance.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 4

Section A- Safety of Flight

- Collision Avoidance
- Visual Scanning
- Airport Operations
- Right-of-way Rules
- Minimum Safe Altitudes
- Flight over hazardous terrain
- Taxiing in Wind
- Positive Exchange of Controls

Section B- Airports

- Controlled and Uncontrolled airports
- Runway Layout
- Traffic Pattern
- Wind Direction Indicators
- Noise Abatement Procedures
- Airport Visual Aids
- Airport Markings
- Airport Signs
- Runway Incursion Avoidance
- Land and Hold Short Operations
- Airport Lighting

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 4, pages 1-41
- Define: Section A and B key terms
- Complete: Section A and B questions

Ground Lesson 7: The Flight Environment (part 2)

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 4, Pages 42-90 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of how to use and interpret aeronautical charts, controlled and uncontrolled airspace, special use airspace, required equipment to operate within controlled airspace and VFR weather minimums.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 4

Section C- Aeronautical Charts

Latitude and Longitude

Projections

Sectional Charts

VFR terminal area charts

Chart Symbology

Class D

Class C

Class B

Class A

Special VFR

Special use airspace

Temporary flight restrictions

ADIZ

Washington DC SFRA

VFR weather minimums

Section D- Airspace

Airspace classifications

Class G

Class E

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 4, pages 42-90
- Define: Section C and D key terms
- Complete: Section C and D questions

Ground Lesson 8: Communication and Flight Information

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 5, Pages 1-56 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of ATC services, radio procedures and various sources of flight information.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 5

Section A- ATC Services

ADS-B system
ADS-B Services
ADS-B Data Links
Radar
Transponders
Flight Service
Control Tower Services
TRACON and ARTCC Services
Traffic Advisories

Common Traffic Advisory Frequency
Controlled Airports
ATC Facilities
Lost Communication Procedures
Emergency Procedures

Section B- Radio Procedures

VHF Communication Equipment
Using the Radio
Phonetic Alphabet
Coordinated Universal Time

Section C- Sources of Flight Information

Locating Flight Information
Aeronautical Charts
Chart Supplements
Electronic Flight Bag
Notices to air missions (NOTAM)
Federal Aviation Regulations
Aeronautical Information Manual
Advisory Circulars

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 5
- Define: Key terms
- Complete: Section questions

Ground Lesson 9: Meteorology for Pilots

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 6, Pages 1-52 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of weather theory, weather patterns and weather hazards.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 6

Section A- Basic Weather Theory

The Atmosphere
Atmospheric Circulation
Atmospheric Pressure
Coriolis Force
Frictional Force
Local Wind Patterns

Precipitation
Air Masses
Fronts

Section C- Weather Hazards

Thunderstorms
Turbulence
Wind Shear
Icing
Restrictions to visibility
Volcanic Ash

Section B- Weather Patterns

Atmospheric Stability
Moisture
Clouds

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 6
- Define: Key terms
- Complete: Section questions

Ground Lesson 10: Interpreting Weather Data

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 7, Pages 1-54 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of the forecasting process, printed reports/forecasts, graphic weather products and sources of weather information.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 7

Section A- The Forecasting Process

Forecasting Methods
Compiling/Processing Weather Data
Forecasting Accuracy and Limitations

Section B- Printed Reports and Forecasts

Printed Weather Reports
Radar Weather Reports
Pilot Weather Reports
Printed Weather Forecasts
Severe Weather Reports and Forecasts

Section C- Graphic Weather Products

Graphic Analyses
Surface Analysis Chart
Weather Depiction Chart
Radar Charts and Images
Satellite Weather Pictures
Graphic Forecasts

Section D- Sources of Weather Information

Preflight Weather Sources
In-flight Weather Sources

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 7
- Define: Key terms
- Complete: Section questions

Ground Lesson 11: Stage 2 Exam

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Review Stage two material - (0.5 hours)

Stage Two Exam- (1:00 Hour)

Review Stage two Exam- (0.5 hour)

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, there will be a review of the material presented in class. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions. The stage two exam will be administered.

Lesson Elements: Stage two Exam

- Review Stage two material

- Stage two written exam

- Review and correct missed items

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have completed the stage two exam and reviewed all missed items.

Study Assignments:

- Review material from chapters 4-7, including key terms and section questions.

Ground Lesson 12: Airplane Performance (part 1)

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 8, Pages 1-32 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of predicting aircraft performance, principles of weight and balance, and important terms related to weight and balance.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 8

Section A- Predicting Performance

Aircraft Performance and Design
Chart Presentations
Table Format
Factors Affecting Aircraft Performance
Takeoff and Landing Performance
Climb Performance
Cruise Performance

Section B- Weight and Balance

Importance of Weight
Importance of Balance
Weight and Balance Terms
Principles of Weight and Balance

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignment (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 8, pages 1-45
- Define: Section A key terms
- Complete: Section A questions

Ground Lesson 13: Airplane Performance (part 2)

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 8, Pages 33-64, (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of determining total weight, center of gravity, flight at various center of gravity positions, and using a mechanical flight computer to determine time, speed, distance, fuel consumption, wind correction, and course.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 8

Section B- Weight and Balance (continued)

Determining Total Weight and CG
Effects of Operating at High Total
Weights
Flight at Various CG Position

Fuel Consumption

Airspeed and Density Altitude
Calculations
Wind Direction
Wind Speed
Course
True Airspeed
Solving for Actual Winds Aloft
Statue to Nautical mile conversions
Electronic Flight Computers

Section C- Flight Computers

Mechanical Flight Computers
Using the Computer Side
Time, Speed, and Distance

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignment (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 8, pages 46-64
- Define: Section B and C key terms
- Complete: Section B and C questions

Ground Lesson 14: Navigation (part 1)

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 9, Pages 1-25 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of the principles of pilotage and dead reckoning and equipment related to VOR navigation.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 9

Section A- Pilotage and Dead Reckoning

Pilotage

Course considerations

Checkpoints

Flying the Course

Dead Reckoning

VFR cruising altitudes

Fuel Requirements

Flight Planning

Flight Plan

Lost Procedures

Section B- VOR Navigation

Ground Equipment

Airborne Equipment

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 9, pages 1-25
- Define: Section A key terms
- Complete: Section A questions

Ground Lesson 15: Navigation (part 2)

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 9, Pages 26-58, (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of VOR and GPS navigation.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 9

Section B- VOR Navigation

Navigation Procedures
Identifying a Station
Interpreting VOR Indications
Reverse Sensing
Off Indications
Tracking
Intercepting a Course
Cross Checking your Position
Checking for Accuracy
Horizontal Situation Indicator
Distance Measuring Equipment
ADF Navigation

Section C- Satellite Navigation- GPS

GPS Operation
WAAS
RAIM
Navigating with GPS
Course Deviation Indicator
Moving Map
Waypoints
GPS Flight Planning
Navigation Data
Intercepting and tracking a course

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignment (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 9, pages 26-58
- Define: Section B and B key terms
- Complete: Section B and C questions

Ground Lesson 16: Applying Human Factors Principles

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 10, Pages 1-52 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of human physiology as it relates to aviation and single pilot resource management.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 10

Section A- Aviation Physiology

Vision in Flight
Night Vision
Visual Illusions
Disorientation
Respiration
Hypoxia
Hyperventilation

Aeronautical Decision Making

Self-Assessment

Operational Pitfalls

Risk Management

Task Management

Cockpit Management

Situational Awareness

CFIT

Automation Management

Standard Operating Procedures

Applying SRM

Section B- Single Pilot Resource Management

Accidents and Incidents

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 10
- Define: Key terms
- Complete: Section questions

Ground Lesson 17: Flying Cross-Country & Federal Aviation Regulations

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Chapter 11, Pages 1-25 (2 hours)

Review end of chapter questions

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, the student will become familiar with and develop a basic understanding of the flight planning process and carrying out a planned flight, including diversion and postflight actions.

Lesson Elements: Chapter 11

Section A- The Flight Planning Process

- Perform a flight overview
- Develop the route
- Obtain a weather briefing
- Complete the nav log
- File the flight plan
- Perform preflight tasks

Section B- The Flight

- Predeparture
- Climb and initial cruise
- Enroute
- Diversion conditions
- Diversion Actions
- Descent
- Before Approach and Landing
- Postflight

Completion Standards: By the end of the class period, the student will have a full understanding of all the lesson elements and will have completed the study assignments.

Study Assignments (Assign at end of previous class session):

- Read: Jeppesen Private Pilot Textbook Chapter 11
- Define: Key terms
- Complete: Section questions

Ground Lesson 18: Final Exam

Text Reference:

Jeppesen Guided Flight Discovery Private Pilot

Presentation Format: Any combination of visual or oral means may be used to present the required information.

Recommended Presentation Sequence:

Stage three Exam- (2:00 Hours)

Review Stage three Exam

Lesson Objective: During this lesson, students will have the opportunity to ask questions. The stage three exam will be administered.

Lesson Elements: Stage three Exam

Stage three written exam

Review and correct missed items

Completion Standards: The student will complete the written exam with a minimum score of 80% and the instructor will review each incorrect answer to ensure that the student understands the item missed.

Study Assignments:

Review material covered throughout the course, including key terms and section questions.